



Tallil Times



Top 5 upcoming base improvements

Page 2

Senior Airman Daniel Turba, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, drives a grader to smooth out freshly laid pea gravel in order to create a more user-friendly walking surface throughout Bedrock City.



TRANS keeps vehicles rolling

Page 7



Team Ali celebrates Memorial Day

Page 9, 10



Right



Wrong

Uniform reminders

Page 5

Top 5 upcoming base improvements

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th AEG Public Affairs

What some may see as a forward operating base with less glitz and glam than other bases in the Southwest Asia area of responsibility, one chief sees a diamond in the rough.

“We must look at the Ali’s history, this was a bombed out Iraqi Air Base, and, in a short amount of time, Team Ali - past and present - has turned this into a stable and comfortable working base,” said Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson, 407th Air Expeditionary Group superintendent.

“It doesn’t look like visiting the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. But that’s OK,” Chief Ferguson said.

The chief points out that making improvements to Ali Base is nothing new to those who have been deployed here.

“Our troops need and want to make their own mark on Ali. Never is this so evident than

“...in a short amount of time, Team Ali - past and present - has turned this into a stable and comfortable working base.”

- Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson, 407th Air Expeditionary Group superintendent.

when I attend the First Four, Focus 56 and Top 3 council meetings each month. It is obvious rotation five and six personnel have the energy and enthusiasm to make Ali better—just as the last cycle did for us.

“We want to give the troops the best possible base of operations and recreation facilities so they can focus on maintaining the airfield and base facilities while assisting in the primary mission of Ali...to assist the Iraqi Air Force stand up once again, but this time, free from oppression,” Chief Ferguson said.

Construction improvements can often mean disruptions and delays in day-to-day practices.

“We are designing the shower and latrine replacement project to upgrade the utility systems and replace the existing cadillacs, without significantly reducing the number of trailers needed to support Bedrock residents,” said Lt. Col. Ben Wham, 407th Expeditionary Civil

Engineer Squadron commander.

“That is a huge challenge, as not only are we replacing the trailers but also the electrical and water/wastewater system as well,” Colonel Wham said.

Not only is Bedrock City due to get a facelift, it’s also scheduled for an internal wiring overhaul by replacing the old telephone and non-secure internet protocol network (NIPRNET) with more permanent commercial construction and distribution.

“This end-state of Bedrock’s new communication backbone will provide the capability for the Defense Switch Network (DSN) phone lines and NIPRNET e-mail connectivity to every building, present and future in Bedrock,” said Maj. Robert Lass, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron commander.

Construction projects can inevitably create tripping hazards and potential safety pitfalls, according to Chief Ferguson.

“We urge you to give all construction

projects a wide berth. Remember to look for wires and debris, and watch out for other residents who may not see an object in their way and point it out to them.”

Also, in the works after the top five construction projects are completed is to remove and reconstitute excess tents, install a fence around the contract laundry facility and continually assess ways to improve force protection.

Although watching the base transform right before the eyes’ of aerospace expeditionary force five and six is energizing because we are turning something better over to our replacements, it can often cause stress, according Chief Ferguson.

“I ask you to remain patient throughout the construction processes and keep the end goal in mind—improved facilities and infrastructure.”

#1 Replace latrines

The 407th Civil Engineer Squadron is scheduled to replace the existing latrines and shower trailers.

End result to user: The new integrated trailers will have both shower stalls and latrines in one facility. The contract is awarded and first trailer is expected by early July.

Expected completion date: September 2005

#2 Install permanent communications

The 407th Communications Squadron is scheduled to replace the tactical, temporary communications lines strewn throughout Bedrock and install a commercialized, permanent communications infrastructure.

End result: DSN and NIPR e-mail capability to every building in Bedrock, present and future.

ECD: October 2005

#3 Improve walking areas throughout Bedrock

The 407 ECES began placing pea gravel throughout Bedrock this week.

End result: Re-compacting the pea gravel provides a much smoother walking surface. There is a long term plan to install asphalt walkways, after the tents are replaced with accommodation trailers.

ECD: June 8

#4 Install new volleyball and basketball courts near Hot Spot

The 407 ECES is scheduled to install two new courts near the Hot Spot.

End result: Work will expand the existing recreational area and provide more opportunities for athletic competition and unit activities.

ECD: July 22

#5 Replace tents with accommodation trailers

A long term project, it was recently approved by Congress and signed by the President as a military construction project. It’s currently in the design stage and coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and United States Central Air Forces staff.

End result: Enhanced living conditions for all Bedrock residents.

ECD: June 2006



The Tallil Times

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Cultivating an integrity-based mindset

“Welcome to the combat AOR!”

Those were the first words I heard as I patiently waited to disembark the contract courier aircraft at a Southwest Asia area of responsibility main operating base May 15 in transit here.

They were spoken by the vice commander there. In all honesty, it didn't seem real. Thoughts quickly ran through my mind. Was I really in a combat AOR? Am I up to the task?

Not knowing at that time, how many Airmen were assigned to Ali Base, I wondered silently to myself if I would do right by them.

As I collected my thoughts, I found comfort in the realization this is what I'd trained for and I was ready. You are too.

The key to our success is knowing our jobs, vigilance and discipline. If we keep these areas in focus, we'll have a great air expeditionary force rotation.

AEF seven and eight will arrive in the fall to the best kept secret in Iraq. By then for us first time deployers, we'll be weathered veterans. For those of you who have done this before, it's another t-shirt. Sounds kinda cool.

More so than any other assignment, we rely on each other here. Each of us must be an expert in our functional area and level. That's a given. Yet we must also rely on each other to be vigilant and remain disciplined. Vigilant in ensuring our tour here is safe whether related to work safety or protection against attack. But today I want to focus on discipline.

I often tell folks the difference between a professional and, simply being an employee, is a professional does what is right even when no one is looking. It's not a new concept, it's personal integrity.

I use the analogy of the cement bollard. Bollards are those round

poles sticking out of the ground around buildings to stop vehicles from entering. If you hit a bollard with a sledge hammer, very little happens at first except maybe the hammer tries to hit you back as it rebounds. But over time, as you repeatedly hit the bollard it begins to crumble from the inside out.

Thus, the bollard core is destroyed before there is any visible sign of damage.

The same is true of your integrity. Every time you do something you know or suspect is wrong your inner core takes a hit. Over time, you are broken down to the point where you are no longer an effective professional Airman. In the end, you put yourself and those around you at risk.

Let's use smoking outside the fire pits as an example. Twice now I've seen folks smoking at the volleyball courts. I watched to see if anyone corrected this breach of safety and in both instances no one did. Everyone on that volleyball court took a hit at their inner core, not just the individual who lit up. All 12 people decided it was okay to put integrity aside.

Ask yourself, where else have you failed to do what you know is right, not only in deed but in action to correct the behavior. Every time you compromise your integrity it gets easier and easier to deviate from what is right.

Now ask yourself do you have the discipline and integrity to do the right thing next time. Doing what you know is right gets easier and easier too as you strengthen your core. Your life and the lives of those around you depend on it.

Let's keep our core intact, and have a safe and rewarding AEF rotation.

“If you hit a bollard with a sledge hammer, very little happens at first... But over time... it begins to crumble from the inside out. Thus, the bollard core is destroyed before there is any visible sign of damage.”



Lt. Col. David Rearick
407th Air Expeditionary Group deputy commander

Help new arrivals become familiar with Bedrock rules, regs

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to Ali and let you know that senior leadership is very impressed with the teamwork and commitment you show on a daily basis. We know the sacrifices each one of you make, and we sincerely appreciate all your efforts!

Please help us to ensure that all personnel are aware of the dress and appearance standards listed in the Tent City Rules, dated May 1 and the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Instruction 36-2903, dated May 1. Both are available on the Intranet.

If you don't know the answer, contact your supervisor and then your first sergeant. The bottom line is an answer is always available.

Next, I need you to also ensure you correct behavior or dress and appearance infractions—never walk by it!

All of us know that we are not swimming in luxury at Ali Base; however, we are experiencing many wonderful small luxuries as a result

of past and present leadership watching out for troops.

For instance, we do not have to wear our desert camouflage uniforms or flight suits to the dining facility; we can wear our physical training uniform; we are not required to do daily formations; and we are allowed to commingle with the Army and use their facilities as they use ours.

These are just a few examples of what we are allowed to do because as a group, we know the standards and obey the rules.

However, all of that can change if we don't watch each other's backs and don't self police.

As mentioned in the First Four, Focus 56 and Top 3 council meetings Thursday, both instructions are currently in revision for a refreshing and minor changes. They should be released no later than June 20 if all goes well. The Group staff is working to clarify subjects better and update a few rules.

“I need you to ensure you correct behavior or dress and appearance infractions—never walk by it! Remember, you can make a difference, just do your part.”



Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson
407th Air Expeditionary Group superintendent

Are You Strapped?

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Dineen

407th AEG Ground Safety manager

Everyone that operates vehicles in and around Ali Base should be strapped. No matter whether you're a security forces member or an admin troop, you should always be strapped.

Now, I know what you're thinking: I thought only security forces and Coalition forces were supposed to be carrying weapons?

Technically, being "strapped" in slang means you're carrying a firearm of some sort. But that's not what I'm talking about.

I'm talking about force protection of another kind. I'm talking about seat belts.

The use of seatbelts is one of the most important, yet overlooked, aspects of personal safety.

Air Force Instruction 91-207 (The Air Force Traffic Safety Program) paragraph five states all people performing official business in a moving vehicle on or off an installation must use installed occupant protective devices (restraints, air bags, child safety seats, etc.). This is required by the Code of Federal Regulation, Part 571, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Also, the Ali Base operating instruction on motorized vehicles states that all personnel riding in or operating a motorized vehicle will wear a seatbelt.

These standards are put into use for your safety and the safety of your vehicle occupants. Statistics show that among 211 vehicle mishaps, 22 percent of those not wearing

seatbelts sustained fatal injuries, and of those numbers wearing seatbelts, only 4 percent received fatal injuries.

As you can see, numbers don't lie.

In the following weeks, you will see a combined effort between law enforcement officials and the safety office for enforcing the standard. If you are identified for not wearing your seatbelt or you are the operator of the vehicle and someone in the vehicle is not wearing a seatbelt, the driver will be given a citation. This citation will go to your unit commander or first sergeant, and you will have to explain why you failed to adhere to standards. Also, the numbers will be briefed monthly to each commander so that they can see where their unit stands on compliance and noncompliance. Please remember that even though you are deployed,

all of the same rules that applied to you at home station apply to you at this location.

Remember, whether you're married with children or single, there is someone that wants you to come back home safe and sound. Do them and yourself a favor, be one of the individuals leaving on the rotator home when you're time is finished here.

Don't be one of the percentages I have to brief when I talk

about fatalities and seatbelt usage, unless you are one of the positive numbers.

So the next time you're driving down the street and someone from the law enforcement flight asks you if you're strapped, tell him, "Heck Yeah!"



Statistics show that among 211 vehicle mishaps, 22 percent of those not wearing seatbelts sustained fatal injuries, and of those numbers wearing seatbelts, only 4 percent received fatal injuries.

Italian compound off-limits

The Italian compound is off-limits to Air Force personnel assigned to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group except for official functions. Personnel who wish to attend functions at the compound must have written approval from their squadron commander and must use the buddy system in the hours of darkness. The pizzeria is not off limits.

Help avoid AC problems

Tents aren't well insulated and evaporating cooling units have limited capability. So when the temperatures are high during the day, the inside temperatures will also be higher. Do not adjust ECU controls. The majority of malfunctions are due to customers attempting to adjust the temperature dial. This causes the unit's coils to freeze. Frozen coils can't be replaced here, so to fix it, it must be turned off and allowed to thaw, which can take hours. If you have any problems, call civil engineering customer service at 445-2237 anytime of day or night.

Avoid delinquency charges

There are two avenues to file accrual vouchers to prevent delinquency charges on your government travel card. Visit the finance office here or go to <https://www.my.af.mil>, then click on "Top Viewed Items," click on "Virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF)," verify your e-mail address, go to bottom right "Helpful Hints," click on "Accrual Travel Voucher," click on 'Fill Out Request' on the left side of page and fill out the document. For more information, call finance at 445-2227.

Direct dial stateside access

Personnel can access a stateside dial tone by dialing 809-463-3376 or call a stateside DSN operator.

Tallil Times correction

The May 27 Tallil Times listed Master Sgt. Yoland Russell-Steward as the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron first sergeant on Page 5. Sergeant Russell-Steward is actually the 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron first sergeant.

Tallil Times back issues

Back issues of the Tallil Times are available to 407th AEG personnel on the shared drive at S:\407 AEG\Public\PA\Tallil Times Archive.

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Uniform guidelines

Airman 1st Class Rebecca Riddick, 407th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron, demonstrates the proper and improper wear of the physical training uniform.

The proper wear of the PT uniform is defined in Ali Base Physical Fitness Gear Wear policy letter dated April 21 and the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Instruction 36-2903. Both documents are located on the intranet.

Policy standards:

- The t-shirt will be tucked in.
 - Conform to Air Force Instruction 36-2903 at all times.
 - Overgarments other than "Air Force" sweatshirts are not allowed.
 - Hair must be neat and not allowed to hang loose below the collar; it will be tied back.
 - No mixing of old and new Air Force PT uniforms is allowed.
- If you leave tent city (with the exception of exercising), members must be in the desert camouflage uniform or the PT uniform.
- Shower shoes or sandals may be worn between living quarters and latrines only.



Force Protection—It's everyone's job to protect the base and each other.

Don't become a statistic and let crime happen to you!

Follow these simple tips:

- Don't leave your valuables unattended in public
- Always lock your personal valuables in a safe place
- Lock your vehicle when left unattended
- Mark your valuable items and record the serial number with the Joint Forces Police Control Center at 445-2232 or 2404
- Be vigilant for strange people or activities around living quarters
- Report suspicious activity to law enforcement desk at 445-2041

Ali Speaks

What do you like about our sister services' or Coalition members' uniforms?



Airman 1st Class Catherine Dilena, 407th ECES

"Some of the other uniforms look like the material is lighter and breathes better.



Staff Sgt. Marvin Rhodeman, 407th ESVS

"I like the Army's uniform because they have patches and badges on them. It makes them look like heroes and proud of what they do."



Staff Sgt. Gregg Magi, 407th ECES

"I like the Italian uniforms. I'm Italian by descent, and I think they're uniforms look professional and like they mean business."



Airman 1st Class Heather Kerr, 407th AEG

"I like that the Army and other Coalition members have the opportunity to wear they're country's flag on their uniform."

May promotees, award winners



Quadruple "Wham"-my!

(Left) Col. Micheal J. Nowak, 407th AEG commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson, 407th AEG superintendent, presented awards Tuesday. Lt. Col. Benjamin Wham, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron commander, and his crew swooped up four awards. (Right) Maj. Robert Lass, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron commander, and Senior Master Sgt. Vincent Jones, 407th ECS, showed their flair to win the "spirit" camel.



ECS wins coveted spirit camel

May Promotions

Airman 1st Class

Hunter D. Chatters, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman

Mandi A. Baker, 407th ECES; Dale D. Hegler, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Detachment 2; Gaylord M. Gaheton, 407th ECES; Brenda A. Ramon, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron and Seth J. Walker, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Staff Sergeant

Christopher J. Pieper, 407th ECES

Captain

Robert C. Lewis, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

June promotions

Airman 1st Class

Denise L. Schrader, 407th ECES

Aaron D. Holderfield, 407th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman

Joseph McDowell, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Kristy L. Meeks, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

David J. Reim, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Michael Wilson, 407th ECES

Staff Sergeant

Eric J. Gilley, 777th EAMXS

Ryan J Newbury, 777th EAMXS

Milford Scroggins, 777th EAMXS

Technical Sergeant

Ryan E. Groves, 407th ECES

Mark D. Morris, 407th ECS

Master Sergeant

Bubba G. Beason, 777th EAS

Thomas P. Carroll, 407th ECES

John P. Young, 407th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

Senior Master Sergeant

Gregory Westbrook, 407th ECES

First Lieutenant

Matthew B. Albers, 407th ECES

May Award winners

Airman of the Month

Senior Airman George Fowlkes, 407th ECES

Noncommissioned Officer of the Month

Tech. Sgt. Michael L. Campbell, 407th ECES

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Month

Senior Master Sergeant Larry Duncan, 777th EAMXS

Company Grade Officer of the Month

First Lieutenant Christopher J. Bohn, 407th ECES

Sharp Saber Team Award

407th ECES construction team

Team members are Master Sgt. Duane Hinman, Tech. Sgt. Michael Campbell, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Tompkins, Staff Sgt. Ramon Padilla, Staff Sgt. Michael Hafstad, Staff Sgt. Steven Deacey, Senior Airman Brian Hall, Senior Airman Alvin Dean, Senior Airman Jason Jones, Senior Airman Delvin Cox, Senior Airman Roy Arndt, Senior Airman Tanya Hill, Senior Airman Daniel Trudeau, Senior Airman Bradley Ball, Airman 1st Class Brandon Hood, Airman 1st Class Adonis Prince, Airman 1st Class Dora Alyias and Airman 1st Class Karol Swierczak.



Photos by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

(Left) Tech. Sgt. Randall Johnson, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Philip Erven, 407th ECS, tack on stripes for newly promoted Senior Airman Kristy Meeks, 407th ECS, at Tuesday's promotion ceremony.

Keepin' wheels spinning

Vehicle maintainers conquer dirt, poor conditions to keep more than 400 vehicles out on Ali's streets so base people can do their jobs

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

407th AEG Public Affairs

A crew on base here affectionately call themselves grease monkeys and work on everything from Yamaha all terrain vehicles, compact pickup trucks, heavy construction machinery to aircraft loading equipment.

"It's our job to keep the wheels spinning," said Senior Master Sgt. Konrad Delger, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle management flight chief deployed from the Nevada Air National Guard, Reno.

"Just don't ask us to make it look pretty," Sergeant Delger said, who is from Sparks, Nev.

Vehicle maintenance doesn't have a paint facility here; it's basically a fix and patch job.

The vehicle fleet here takes a beating with the combination of extreme temperatures, dirt and grit that clog intake valves, air filters, radiators and engine oil, along with a lack of readily available replacement parts.

And working on vehicles here isn't as easy as visiting the local auto parts store back in the States and pulling out of the parking lot ten minutes later with item in hand ready to be installed.

"There are not enough tools over here or the right tools," said Senior Airman Juan Loya, 407th ELRS vehicle and equipment maintainer deployed from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

"It's not an easy job because it's never ending. You fix one thing and another one breaks,"

said Airman Loya.

But that hasn't stopped them. They find ways around obstacles like fabricating parts or parking certain vehicles until replacement parts can arrive. In the States, that would be unheard of. Here it's a strategic decision that can extend the life of a vehicle.

Plus, over half of Sergeant Delger's crew had never worked on humvees until they got here.

So they sought out the expertise of Army vehicle mechanics who do frequently work on the workhorse of the fleet.

Now, they work closely with their Army counterparts coordinating repairs and ordering parts.

"You walk in and see Air Force and Army working side-by-side in the garage. We're all wrench benders. If you don't work together, you don't get the mission done," Sergeant Delger said.

It's paid off. Now not only have they gained more experience on the humvees, they're making improvements - although their customers might consider it more of a necessity, than an improvement. It's something of high demand in these parts - cool air.

"Inside an armor plated-humvee with the occupant wearing full battle rattle for 12 hours, it can exceed 130 degrees. We are working to give all the humvees air conditioning by September.

"If we can drop the temperature inside the vehicle, it keeps them healthier, and a healthier cop out on the perimeter keeps us all safer," Sergeant Delger said.

Although not directly out in the environment 24/7, the crew of mechanics aren't in the

lap of luxury either.

When describing his work environment, Sergeant Delger sums it up in three words: dirty, hot and greasy.

Airman Loya chuckles when he says he's seen first hand why vehicle maintainers are jokingly referred to as greasy primates.

"Sometimes we do jump up and down like monkeys when a bolt or a part is giving us trouble," said Airman Loya, a native of Odessa, Texas.

But after a cool down period, it's back to the business at hand: to push out serviceable vehicles to the end user.

A good day for Airman Loya is "being able to put at least one vehicle out."

For the leader of their crew, quality, not just, quantity is what counts at the end of the day.

"The best feeling is watching the tail lights leave the yard and knowing they're not coming back for a while," Sergeant Delger said.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Darcie Ibiidapo
Staff Sgt. Brent Lake, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle and equipment maintainer, makes final adjustments to a fuel system components on a humvee during scheduled maintenance.



Senior Airman Juan Loya, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle and equipment maintainer, works on a humvee with a bad alternator and cooling system. Vehicles take a beating in the desert, so maintainers here have to find creative ways to return vehicles to customers quickly.



Suntanning in Bedrock City

Rumor

I heard you can't suntan anywhere in Bedrock City?

Fact

That rumor is false. You can suntan behind the Hot Spot. There is a semi-enclosed area with a few cots that are designated for people to suntan there. This is the only authorized location to suntan in Bedrock; residents aren't allowed to suntan behind their tents.

Women must wear a one-piece swimsuit; no bikinis are allowed. And men must wear trunks. All personnel transiting to and from the tanning spot must conform to Tent City uniform standards.

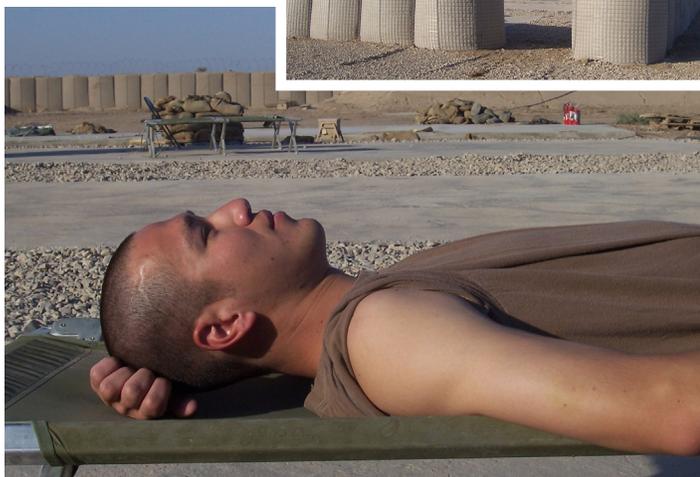


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips

Senior Airman Ruben Gonzales, 407th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron, catches a few rays at the designated sun tanning location behind the Hot Spot. Bedrock residents aren't allowed to tan behind their tents or anywhere else in Bedrock City.

Got a rumor...

Don't speculate! Get the facts by e-mailing the Tallil.Times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil or call Chief Master Sgt. Susan Ferguson at 445-2027.

407th AEG Warrior of the Week Airman 1st Class Richard Wharton



Unit: 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Duty title: Utility System Apprentice

Home unit: 366th Civil Engineer Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

Why other warriors say he's a warrior: After working a full 12-hour shift, Airman Wharton responded to an overflowing sewage lift station where he remained for more than three hours. His fast actions prevented sewage from flooding Bedrock.

What is your most memorable Air Force experience: Silver Flag (contingency operations training held at Ramstein Air Base, Germany)

Hobbies: Weight lifting, sports and playing XBOX with my wife

Family: Claytany, wife

Identify This



KNOW WHAT THIS IS? Each week, the "Tallil Times" staff takes a photo from around Ali Base. If you can identify the object, e-mail us at Tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block. The first person to correctly identify the object first gets their name printed in the Tallil Times and **wins a complimentary t-shirt or coin** from the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron. Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Luis Sanchez, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, who correctly identified last week's Tallil Times photo of fume vents.

407 AEG remembers fallen heroes



Photos by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

(1) The 407th Air Expeditionary Group commanded by Col. Michael J. Nowak pays homage to servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice Monday during reveille. In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. It was not until after World War I; however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day.



(2) Two 407th Expeditionary Forces Security Forces Squadron members enjoy their view of the retreat ceremony Monday at 5 p.m.

(3) The 407th ESFS volunteered to join forces with the 122nd Corps Support Group to present a Memorial Day Observance at the Adder Commons Monday at 9 a.m. The 2/44th Air Defense Artillery Honor Guard posted colors while seven security force members provided a 21-gun salute.



Memorial Day's original name, given by an organization of Union veterans called the Grand Army of the Republic, was Decoration Day. It was a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers.

Memorial Day funfest

Although far from home, 407 AEG members and a few of their Army and Coalition friends kicked up the heat to celebrate Memorial Day



Remaining photos by Master Sgt. Mauice Hessel

Photo by Airman 1st Class Jamie Schultz

5K Run

Men ages 18 to 34

First place: Keith Matiskella, Italian Air Force

Second place: Ken Riley, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

Men ages 35 and up

First place: Mr. Parotta, Italian Air Force

Second place: Lt. Col. Paul Kucharek, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Women ages 18 to 34

First place: Capt. Teresa Rose, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Second place: Senior Airman Jennifer Morales, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Women 35 and up

First place: Master Sgt. Kristy walker, 777th EAS

Second place: Capt. Tracy Howell-Lapalme, 407th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

Volleyball

407th EOSS

Bench Press Competition

Airman 1st Class Stephen Judah, 407th ECES

Dodgeball

407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

2-on-2 basketball

Senior Airman Marlon Lancaster, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron and Staff Sgt. Marvin Rhodeman, 407th ESVS

Ping Pong

Staff Sgt. Joseph Dudley, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Pool

Staff Sgt. Antonio Cruz, 407th ESFS

Foosball

Maj. Michael Ponder, 407th ESVS and Master Sgt. Donald Bowles

(1) Senior Airman Marlon Lancaster, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron, gets into character of his alter ego D.U.F.F commander A.K.A "Duece Diggler" to get the crowd going during dodgeball Monday. The 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron won dodgeball.

(2) Runners approach the first turn of the 5K run. More than 700 Bedrock residents, Army and Coalition forces participated in the day's festivities sponsored by the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron.

(3) Senior Airman Jennifer Morales, 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, lines up a shot on her opponent during dodgeball.

(4) Senior Airman Michael McGraw, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, digs in during volleyball. The 407th EOSS won the volleyball tournament.

Just for Fun

Presented by the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Today

2:30 p.m., Tai Chi at Muscle Beach
7:30 p.m., Combat Bingo at Big Top
8 p.m., Women's 2-on-2 volleyball at courts
10:30 p.m., Tai Chi at Muscle Beach

Saturday

2:30 p.m., Pilates at Muscle Beach
8 p.m., Madden Tourney at Hot Spot
8 p.m., Over 35 basketball tourney at courts
10:30 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach

Sunday

8 p.m., Texas Hold em'
7:30 p.m., Jujitsu
8 p.m., 3-on-3 basketball tourney at courts
8:30 p.m., Absolute Abs

Monday

7 p.m., Self-defense at Muscle Beach
7 p.m., Intramural dodge ball at Big Top
8 p.m., Dominos at Big Top

Tuesday

5:30 a.m., Tai Chi at Muscle Beach
8 a.m., 2-Man Foosball at Hot Spot
2:30 p.m., Tai Chi
7 p.m., Intramural dodgeball at Big Top
8 p.m., 2-Man Foosball at Hot Spot
10:30 p.m., Tai Chi

Wednesday

2:30 p.m., Pilates at Muscle Beach
7 p.m., Intramural dodgeball at Big Top
8 p.m., Hearts at Hot Spot
10:30 p.m., Spin at Muscle Beach

Thursday

2 p.m., Sports Council at the Big Top
8 a.m., Ping Pong at Hot Spot
8 p.m., Ping Pong at Hot Spot
9 p.m., Self-defense at Muscle Beach

June 10

5:30 a.m., Yoga at Muscle Beach
7 a.m., Fitness Challenge (push ups, sit ups and mile and half: t-shirts for winners) at Muscle Beach
7:30 p.m., Combat Bingo



Got ideas?

Give Services a call at 445-2696

Cricket Movie Theater



Today



8 a.m., **Sahara**, The adaptation of Clive Cussler's bestseller follows master explorer Dirk Pitt who embarks on a treasure hunt in West Africa searching for "The Ship of Death." Starring Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz.



11 a.m., **Fever Pitch**, A story about a man obsessed with the Boston Red Sox and the woman who gets pulled into the madness. Starring Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon.



2 p.m., **Man of the House**, A hard-edged Texas Ranger Roland Sharp is assigned to protect the only witnesses to the murder of a key figure in the prosecution of a drug kingpin — a group of University of Texas cheerleaders. Starring Tommy Lee Jones.



5 p.m., **Guess Who**, A remake of 1967's "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Kutcher plays a man marrying a black woman whose father is having difficulty coming to terms with the marriage. Starring Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher.



8 p.m., **The Pacifier**, An undercover agent who, after failing to protect an important government scientist, learns the man's family is in danger. In an effort to redeem himself, he agrees to take care of the man's children only to discover that child care is his toughest mission yet. Starring Vin Diesel.

Saturday

8 a.m., Fever Pitch
11 a.m., Man of the House
2 p.m., Guess Who
5 p.m., The Pacifier
8 p.m., Sahara

Wednesday

8 a.m., Sahara
11 a.m., Fever Pitch
2 p.m., Man of the House
5 p.m., Guess who
8 p.m., The Pacifier

Sunday

8 a.m., Man of the House
11 a.m., Guess Who
2 p.m., The Pacifier
5 p.m., Sahara
8 p.m., Fever Pitch

Thursday

8 a.m., Fever Pitch
11 a.m., Man of the House
2 p.m., Guess Who
5 p.m., The Pacifier
8 p.m., Sahara

Monday

8 a.m., Guess Who
11 a.m., The Pacifier
2 p.m., Sahara
5 p.m., Fever Pitch
8 p.m., Man of the house

June 10

8 a.m., Sahara
11 a.m., Fever Pitch
2 p.m., Man of the House
5 p.m., Guess Who
8 p.m., The Pacifier

Tuesday

8 a.m., The Pacifier
11 a.m., Sahara
2 p.m., Fever Pitch
5 p.m., Man of the House
8 p.m., Guess Who





Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 445-2006.

Sunday

7:30 a.m., Catholic Confession at chapel/chaplain's Office
8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass at chapel
8 a.m., Church of Christ Service at religious activity center
9:30 a.m., Traditional Protestant service at chapel
10 a.m., Latter Day Saints service at Army RAC
10:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass at Camp Cedar
12:30 p.m., Gospel service at Big Top
6 p.m., Contemporary Praise Team rehearsal at chapel
7 p.m., Contemporary Worship service at chapel

Monday

6 p.m., Weekday Mass at chapel
7:30 p.m., Gospel choir rehearsal at Big Top
7:30 p.m., Discipleship Bible study/fellowship at chapel
7:30 p.m., Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage at chapel annex

Tuesday

7 a.m., Weekday Mass at chapel
Noon, Church of Christ lunch/study at RAC
7 p.m., Right of Christian Initiation of Adults/chapel annex
7:30 p.m., Bible study (Book of Acts) at chapel

Wednesday

5 p.m., Catholic choir rehearsal at chapel
6 p.m., Weekday Mass at chapel
8 p.m., 40 Days of Purpose Bible study at chapel annex (starts June 1)

Thursday

7 a.m., Weekday Mass at chapel
6:30 p.m., Catholic Choir Rehearsal at chapel
7 p.m., LDS study at Army RAC
7:45 p.m., Gospel Service Bible study at chapel

Friday

11:45 a.m., Islamic prayer at Army RAC
6 p.m., Weekday Mass at chapel
6:30 p.m., Jewish Service at RAC
7 p.m., Church of Christ Bible study at RAC
7:30 p.m., Gospel choir rehearsal at chapel

Saturday

5:30 p.m., Catholic confession at chapel/chaplain's Office
6 p.m., Catholic Vigil Mass at chapel
7 p.m., Contemporary Praise Team rehearsal at chapel



Inspirational moments... Unexpected visitors

My dad, Angelo, was in the hospital in Tacoma, Wash. A former Marine and veteran of the Korean War, he was having his third knee replacement surgery.

What was worse was Dad had to go through it alone. His wife was ill and unable to accompany him or even visit during his weeklong stay. My sisters and brother lived in California, and I lived even farther away in Indiana.

There wasn't even anyone to drive him to the hospital, so he had arrived by cab. The thought of my dad lying there alone was more than I could stand.

But what could I do?

So I picked up the phone and called information for the Puyallup, Wash., Marine Corps recruiting station, where I joined the Marines ten years before. I thought that if I could explain the situation maybe someone would visit.

A man answered the phone and in a very confident voice said, "United States Marines, Sergeant Vanes. May I help you?"

I asked him if he would please go see him. Without hesitation, he answered, "Absolutely."

Then I asked, "If I send flowers to the recruiting station, would you deliver them to my dad when you go to the hospital?"

"Ma'am, I will be happy to take the flowers to your dad. I'll give you my address. You send them, and I will make sure that he receives them," he replied.

The next morning, I sent

the flowers to Sergeant Vane's office just as we had planned. After work, I phoned my dad to inquire about his surprise.

He told me excitedly, "I was just waking up when I thought I saw two Marines in their dress blue uniforms standing at the foot of my bed. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. But they were really there!" I began to laugh, partly at his excitement, but also because he didn't even mention his operation.

He felt so honored that two Marines he had never met took time out to visit him. He told me again and again how sharp they looked and how all the nurses thought he was so important.

"But how did you ever get them to do that?" he asked me. "It was easy. We are all Marines, Dad, past and present; it's the bond."

After hanging up with my dad, I called Sergeant Vanes to thank him for visiting my dad. And to thank him for the extra things he did to make it special: wearing his dress blue uniform, bringing another Marine along — he even took a digital camera with him. He had pictures taken of the two Marines with my dad right beside his bed.

That evening, he e-mailed them to me so I could see for myself that my dad was not alone and that he was going to be okay.

As for the flowers, they hardly mattered, but I was glad for the opportunity to express my feelings.

The card read: "Daddy, I didn't want just anyone bringing you flowers ... so I sent the World's Finest. Semper Fi."

**Sometimes, you just have to ask to receive...
Be a friend to someone in need today**